

that a noble man shall have by redyng these oratours. is that, when he shall happe to reason in counsaille, or shall speke in a great audience, or to strange ambassadours of great princes, he shall not be constrainyd to speake wordes sodayne and disordered but shall bestowe them aptly and in their places;¹ "Caesar's commentaries are studiously to be redde of the princes of this realme of Englande and their counsailors;"² and "It wold not be forgoten that the lytell boke of the most excellent doctour Erasmus Roterdamus which booke is intituled the Institution of a Christian Prince, wolde be as familyare always with gentilmen, at all tymes, and in every age, as was Herodes with the great kyng Alexander, or Xenophon with Scipio."³ Ascham teaches, "After that your scholar....shall come to a ready perfectness in translating....Then take this order with him: read daily unto him some book of Tully, as the third book of Epistles, or that excellent epistle containing almost the whole first book ad Q. fra some comedy of Terrence or Plautus....Caesar's Commentaries are to be read with all curiositie wherein especially without all exception to be made, either by friend or foe, is seen the unspotted propriety of the Latin tongue,...or some Orations of T. Livius, such as be both longest and plainest;"⁴ "I have heard worthy M. Cheke many times say, 'I would have a good student pass and journey through all authors, both Greek and Latin, but he that will dwell in these few books only, first in God's Holy Bible, and then join

1. The Boke Named the Governour, p 42.

2. op. cit., p 46.

3. op. cit., p 48.

4. The Scholemaster, p 93.